

FRENCH CONTINUE TO SHATTER HINDENBURG LINE ON THE SOUTH

Men and Guns Captured in Advance Between Soissons and the Old Champagne

FOUR VILLAGES OCCUPIED

Twelve Divisions of Fresh German Troops Unsuccessfully Attempt to Halt Drive

BRITISH DRIVE SLOWED UP

Germans May be Preparing Blow at Russian Right Wing

The southern part of the Hindenburg line in France continues to crumble or fall back before the forces of the French.

Thursday witnessed additional important gains by the French at numerous points from Soissons eastward to the old Champagne and also the capture of men and guns. Northeast of Soissons the villages of Aisy, Jouy and Laffaux and Fort de Conde were captured by the French, while to the east, near Hurtebiz, another point of support fell into their hands and with it 500 prisoners and two cannons.

Violent Artillery Actions. Violent artillery actions are in progress between the Somme and the Oise, in Champagne, near Le Mort Homme, and the Verdun sector, and in Belgium around Dixmude.

The French war office reports that Wednesday night the Germans threw 12 divisions of fresh men into the fray between Soissons and Auberive in an attempt to hold General Nivelle's forces back, but that their efforts were fruitless.

While the Troslograd war office announces that the activity on the eastern front has consisted merely of rifle-firing and scouting operations, reports from Petrograd, which have been made public by the Russian general staff, are to the effect that the Germans on the northern part of the front in Russia, backed by their fleet, are preparing for a great attack on the Russian right wing, probably with the intention of attempting to isolate Petrograd from the main Russian armies.

Much Activity in Macedonia. Considerable fighting is taking place in the Macedonian theatre, with the Serbians the aggressors. Attacks were delivered in the Cerna river region and between Lakes Ochrida and Resha, but according to Paris both were repulsed.

Reciprocal artillery fighting is in progress between the Austrians and Italians in the region of Gorizia and the Luzzi valley. Several minor engagements have been fought with the honors resting with the Italians, according to Rome.

The British house of commons has been informed by Andrew Bonar-Law that an announcement would soon be made of further losses of British hospital ships.

FRENCH SUCCESS GREATER THAN REPORTS INDICATE. From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, Grand Headquarters of the French Army on the French front, April 19.—The French success in the forward movement was much more considerable than indicated by the published reports or the army communiqués which narrate a very sober account of the events. There is no intention of relaxing the pressure on the Germans, who are opposing a tenacious resistance without avail.

Assistance without avail. The British points of formidable strength are most important strategic value, such as Ostel, Courtecon and Vailly, which have fallen before the French assaults, reports sent by runners from reconnoitering parties indicate steady progress everywhere, and large captures of material. The staffs take no account of anything which is not a preliminary step to a success before attempting to approach each objective point.

BERLIN STATEMENT ON THE FIGHTING ON FRENCH FRONT. Berlin, April 19.—The official statement on the campaign in France as given in Berlin this evening reads: "The fighting on the French front is continuing with a steady increase in the slightest increase in the British fire calling up distress signals. The German infantry are getting artillery support since the battle of Arras, as a result of a bitterly worded report made regarding the lack of this support previously. The feeling is so intense between the German infantry and artillerymen that the British have found it necessary to separate them (Continued on Page Two).

BEGIN TODAY ON REVENUE PROBLEM

House Ways and Means Committee to Commence Consideration Free of Party Lines

TO STUDY M'ADOO'S SCHEME

Committee's First Task Is To Raise Approximately \$2,000,000,000 To Meet First Year's Estimated Cost of the War.

Washington, April 19.—With party lines obliterated, the entire membership of the House Ways and Means committee tomorrow will begin consideration of methods for raising new revenue with which to meet this country's share of the war expenses. The initial problem will be the raising of approximately \$2,000,000,000 to meet half of the estimated cost of the first year of the war, for which certificates of indebtedness soon are to be issued. The committee also probably will lay a ground work for the collection of such other part of the war cost that Congress may determine is to come from direct taxation.

Careful consideration will be given to a list of suggested new sources of taxation sent to the committee last Sunday by Secretary McAdoo after conference with various members of the administration. He suggested the raising of about \$1,800,000,000 from various sources, including income, excess profits, liquor, amusement, automobile and tobacco taxes. His list will meet with strong objection in many instances.

Probably the most radical suggestion in the list was that a 40 per cent tax be levied on all incomes over \$1,000. This is being termed "confiscation" by persons of large incomes who are opposing it. Democratic Leader Kitchin thinks rapid progress will be made on the bill. He and other Democratic leaders are particularly gratified with the manner in which Republican members of the committee have indicated their desire to work harmoniously with the Democrats on the committee. It is believed a bill will be reported within two weeks.

GERMAN MUNITIONS WORKERS REFUSED TO RETURN TO WORK

Held Meeting and Decided to Send Deputation to Call on HOLLIG.

Amsterdam, April 19.—The Berlin Vorwaerts, a copy of which has been received here, says the male and female workers of the Deutsche Waffen and Munitions Fabriken, of Berlin, decided Wednesday, after three hours of lively debate not to resume work, but to send a deputation to Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the imperial chancellor. The result of the interview with the chancellor was to have been communicated to a meeting of the workers, which was fixed for today. The Cologne Gazette reports various strikes in Leipzig.

MORALE OF GERMANS IS GREATLY LESSEMED

Prisoners Say Reduced Rations Has Caused Discontent

Captured Officer Says Loss of Vimy Ridge is Regarded Greatest Defeat of War—Thinks Garrison Was Demoralized.

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, British Headquarters in France, April 19 (via London).—A German officer captured Tuesday frankly stated that the Germans regard the loss of Vimy Ridge as the biggest defeat they have suffered since the war began. This officer knows the ridge thoroughly, having been stationed on it all last summer, and said he could not understand how any troops could fall to hold it. In his opinion, the garrison must have been demoralized before the British attack began.

The latter statement is thought to be true, for other captured Germans have testified to demoralization in their ranks after several days of the British continue high nervous all along the front, the slightest increase in the British fire calling up distress signals. The German infantry are getting artillery support since the battle of Arras, as a result of a bitterly worded report made regarding the lack of this support previously. The feeling is so intense between the German infantry and artillerymen that the British have found it necessary to separate them (Continued on Page Two).

DEMOCRATS AGREE TO CONSIDER WAR LEGISLATION ONLY

Caucus Decides to Confine Extra Session to Bills Recommended by President

NEW YORKERS WITHDRAW

Several Members Leave Meeting as Result of Bitter Fight Over Prohibition

Washington, April 19.—Democrats of the House in caucus late today agreed to consider at the present extra session only such war and general defense legislation as may be recommended by the President. National prohibition, which is being urged by its advocates, as a necessary war measure, may be included under this list, but unless the President recommends it as a war measure, it has no chance of being taken up. It is also possible that a rivers and harbors bill embracing such proposed improvements as are deemed essential by the War Department for the national defense may be passed. The President has indicated his willingness to approve a measure under certain restrictions and the War Department also desires harbor improvements of a limited character. The caucus refused by a vote of 77 to 71, to approve either a \$33,000,000 or a \$15,000,000 waterways bill, both of which were proposed by Chairman Small, of the rivers and harbors committee.

The caucus agreement was reached only after a bitter fight over prohibition, and after several New York City members had withdrawn because of the adoption of a resolution providing for the consideration of a measure to authorize the President to prohibit the manufacture or sale of liquor during the war. Amid great applause this proposal, made by Representative Decker, of Missouri, was carried 87 to 60. Then the New York Democrats began to protest and walk out and several declared they would not be bound by a caucus which would declare for such legislation.

A hasty conference of leaders followed in an effort to restore peace. The result was that Democratic Leader Kitchin offered the substitute finally adopted. Opinions differ in the House as to whether the President will recommend prohibition as a war measure. One of the plans suggested by Secretary McAdoo for providing war revenue was to raise the tax on liquor.

Representative Webb, father of most of the nation-wide "dry" bills which have been proposed in recent sessions, said tonight he did not anticipate the enactment of national prohibition legislation at this session. A bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicants to soldiers and sailors, he said, might be passed.

BELIEVE WAR IS SUREST WAY TO GAIN DURABLE PEACE

Washington, April 19.—Trustees of the Carnegie endowment for international peace, in annual session here today, formally recorded their belief that the most effectual means of promoting durable peace is to prosecute the war against Germany to a final victory for democracy.

RUSSKIA VOLIA SAYS SOLUTION OF ECONOMIC PROBLEM NOT IN SIGHT

Comments on the Menacing Situation As a Result of Existing Conflict Between the Government and Council.

Petrograd, Wednesday, April 18 (via London, April 19)—delayed.—With conflict existing between the government and the council of workmen and soldiers deputies one cannot speak of a sole strong power in Russia, because a power which is menaced is not a power, but a semblance of power, says the Russkia Volia, a statement which is considered a conservative estimate of existing internal conditions.

Optimistic assurances that the danger from the breach between the two governments is only trivial are transitory and extravagant. Statements to the effect that the country is facing complete disaster are equally misleading. It is not an exaggeration to say that economic disturbance caused by the revolution has raised a problem, the solution of which is not yet in sight.

As at present constituted, the government is without means to enforce any of its mandates except by appeals to the patriotism of the people. Without any strong central authority the masses realize that power is in their own hands. The existing breach dates from the triumph of the revolution when the (Continued on Page Two).

INCREASE NATION'S BUSINESS INSTEAD OF CURTAILING IT

War Time is No Time to Close Factories—Prosperity Needed Now More Than Ever

WARNING ISSUED TO PUBLIC

Howard E. Coffin Points Out Dangers in Hysterical and Ill-Advised Economy

Washington, April 19.—Warning to the nation against a real danger in hysterical and ill-advised economy and interference with normal pursuit of the people, is given by Howard E. Coffin, of the advisory committee of the Council of National Defense, in a statement made public tonight as the first enterprise of the government's new committee on public information. Just returned from a trip through several Middle Western states, Mr. Coffin deplors the fact that conditions of unemployment and closed factories should arise as a result of indiscriminate efforts, public and private, toward war time economies.

Hysterical Economy. "After nearly three years of refusal to take the European war and its lessons seriously," Mr. Coffin said, "we suddenly launched forth a feverish activity to save the country overnight. Patriotic organizations, almost without number, are milling around noisily, and while intentions are good, the results are often far from practical.

"Because of an impending and possible shortage of food-stuffs we have hysterical demands for economy in every line of human endeavor. Waste is bad, but an indiscriminating economy is worse. "Some states and municipalities are stopping road building and other public works. General business is being slowed down because of the emotional response of the trading public to these misguided campaigns for economy; savings are being withdrawn from the banks; reports show that some people have begun to hoard food supplies and thousands of workers are being thrown needlessly out of employment. All this is wrong.

More Business, Not Less. "We need prosperity in war time even more than when we are at peace. We need more business, not less. There is real danger in hysteria. Indiscriminate economy will be ruinous. Now is the time to open the throttle. It seems to me, therefore, that a plain statement of general policy is most desirable.

"Upon the industrial side of the war three great problems, or perhaps I should better say tasks, confront us. "First and foremost, we must facilitate the flow of raw material and finished products to our allies and must provide the means of rail and water transportation therefor. "Second, we must meet our own great military and naval building schedules.

"Third, we must plan to do all this with the least possible disarrangement to our vast commercial and industrial machines. "Through it all we must keep a close eye upon the possible conditions of peace following the present war. We must insure that business and industry, the prosperity of the country during the war, if we are to hold our present strong place among nations in the commercial competition of the future.

"Patriotic service does not of necessity mean the making of shells or the carrying of a musket over the shoulder. This would soon become a sorry sort of country if it did. There is no doubt of the willingness of any manufacturing plant, or individual to serve should the call come. But until the call does come, it is best to stick to the job, to make 'better business' of it, to work and keep our factory fires burning.

World Markets Still Open. "No radically new conditions confront us. We are still cut off from business relations from the central powers, but that does not mean that (Continued on Page Ten).

Young Man, Marrying Will Not Exempt You

Washington, April 19.—Men of military age who have married since a state of war against Germany was declared will not escape military service under a War Department policy formally announced today. The department's statement follows: "The War Department announces that all men married since the outbreak of war will be treated upon the same basis as unmarried men in so far as their military obligations are concerned. It is desired that the utmost publicity be given by the press to this announcement. "The department was moved to take this action in order that all men should understand exactly what is contemplated in the organization of an army to fight Germany. It was desired that there should arise no question of slackers upon the score of marriages contracted since the outbreak of war, with the possible construction that the marriage in any case was hastened in order that military duty might be evaded.

BRITISH DELEGATES TO BE ELABORATELY ENTERTAINED UPON VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Among the Dinners to be Given is Included One at White House to the Entire Party

Commerce Commission Grants Tentative Permission for Increases by Railroads

WILL HEAR SHIPPERS' SIDE

Increases of 15 Per Cent Would Be Effective June 1, But the Tariffs are Subject to Protest and Suspension.

Washington, April 19.—All railroads were granted tentative permission by the Interstate Commerce Commission to file supplemental tariffs, increasing freight rates generally 15 per cent, effective June 1, next. In this manner the commission disposed of the question of procedure in dealing with the application of the roads in every section for general increases. "The commission's order is tentative, subject to recall or change prior to the effective date of the rates. In this way the commission brings the issue squarely before the railroads and the shippers in a definite form. Hearings will begin tomorrow, at which each side will be given an opportunity to state its views and a full investigation of the proposed increases seems likely before the commission issued its final finding.

At the first of these hearings tomorrow, shippers from New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, and other large cities will be present to define their attitude as to the railroads' demands. Supplemental to the general tentative order, the commission issued an order today permitting the increase to apply, tentatively, on all through rates which are lower than the total of rates to and from intermediate points. This affects chiefly the towns and cities in the inter-mountain territory. The tentative order permits a horizontal increase of 15 per cent on all rates, including those to intermediate points. Shippers from the great stretch of territory included in the inter-mountain country have signified their intention of opposing this arrangement vigorously. The commission's attitude is made clear in this section of the tentative order.

"The commission does not hereby approve any rates that may be filed under this authority, all such rates being subject to protest, suspension, complaint, investigation and conviction, if in conflict with any provision of the act to regulate commerce."

AMERICANS EXCHANGE FIRE WITH MEXICAN SNIPERS.

El Paso, Texas, April 19.—Snipers who fired at an American sentry stationed at the viaduct in the suburbs of this city, were fired upon in return by a squad of United States soldiers late today. One Mexican was seen to fall after the volley had been fired across the border. The sentry was patrolling his beat when two shots were fired from entrenchments on the Mexican side, according to the official report received at military headquarters. The sentry returned the fire and called the members of his squad. They fired more than twenty shots across the line.

SIX BURNED TO DEATH IN FIRE AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Severely Injured in Blast Following Explosion in Film Exchange.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 19.—Six persons are dead and a score of others are suffering from minor injuries as a result of a fire which is thought to have resulted from an explosion of moving picture films in the office of a film exchange in the Conax office building and apartment house in the downtown district here tonight.

Forty persons were in the building when the explosion, followed by a wave of flames, occurred, and a score of women were hurt in the panic which followed a rush for the stairways.

BUSINESS INTERESTS PROTEST AGAINST TAX

Excess Profits Law Seems Especially Objectionable

No State Troops to be Mobilized Within 15 Miles of Any State Capital.

N. C. N. G. at Morehead; Recruits Ft. Oglethorpe.

(Special Star Telegram.) Washington, April 19.—Adjutant General McCain, of the War Department, today said that the law enacted some time ago prohibiting the mobilization of state troops within 15 miles of any state capital will be enforced during the present war. The North Carolina National Guard will be mobilized at Morehead City, while the citizen soldiery will be sent to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., near Chattanooga, for training.

The troops from South Carolina and Tennessee will also be sent to Fort Oglethorpe. A number of North Carolina businessmen have protested to Congress against the proposed alleged prohibitory tax upon the business interests of the country. The excess tax law which now levies a tax of 8 per cent in excess of all profits over 8 per cent will be increased to 20 per cent and the income tax law which now levies a tax of 2 per cent is to be doubled, according to present plans of the Ways and Means committee. A strong protest is being registered against this proposed legislation, estimated to cost \$100,000,000. (Continued on Page Ten).

WILSON EXPLAINS THE PROCESS OF SELECTIVE DRAFT

Will Place in Army Only Those Men Who Can Best be Spared From Other Activities

MEANS HIGHER EFFICIENCY

President in Letter to Representative Helvering Strongly Supports the Plan

Washington, April 19.—President Wilson today sent a letter to Representative Helvering, of Kansas, explaining and strongly supporting the administration's army bill with its selective conscription plan. The letter indicated the purpose of the administration to insist upon enactment of the measure vigorously. It follows: "I welcome the inquiry of your letter of April 19, because I have realized the truth of what you say from my own observations, namely, that what is meant to be understood by the selective draft is not generally understood throughout the country.

"The process of the draft is, I think, very clearly set forth in the bill drafted by the War Department and which I so earnestly hope the Congress will adopt, but it is worth while to state the idea which underlies the bill a little more fully.

"I took occasion the other day in an address to the people of the country to point out the many forms of patriotic service that were open to them and to emphasize the fact that the military part of the service was by no means the only part, and perhaps, all things considered, not the most vital part. Our object is a mobilization of all the productive and active forces of the nation and their development to the highest point of co-operation and efficiency, and the idea of the selective draft is that those should be chosen for service in the army who are the most fully spared from the prosecution of the other activities which the country must engage in and to which it must devote a great deal of its best energy and capacity.

"The volunteer system does not do this. When men choose themselves, they sometimes choose without due regard to their other responsibilities. Men may come from the farms or from the mines or from the factories or centers of business who ought not to come, but ought to stand back of the armies in the field and see that they get everything that they need and that the people of the country are sustained in the meantime.

"The principle of the selective draft, in short, has at its heart this idea, that it is an universal obligation to serve and that a public authority should choose those upon whom the obligation of military service shall rest and also in a sense choose those who shall do the rest of the Nation's work. The bill, if adopted, will do more, I believe, than any other single instrumentality to create the impression of universal service in the army and out of it, and if properly administered will be a great source of stimulation.

"Those who think we are turning away altogether from the volunteer principle seem to forget that some 600,000 men will be needed to fill the ranks of the regular army and the National Guard and that a very great field of individual enthusiasm lies there wide open."

CONFIDENT BILL WILL PASS WITHOUT MATERIAL CHANGES

Washington, April 19.—The President and administration leaders in Congress are confident of the ultimate enactment of the army bill without material changes. The fight probably will begin in the Senate, where the bill will be taken up as soon as the espionage measure is disposed of, Chairman Chamberlain, of the military committee, submitted his favorable report today.

FOOD SITUATION CAUSES SWEDISH LABORERS TO STRIKE

All Shops in Town of Vestervik are Forced to Shut Down.

Stockholm, via London, April 19.—Dissatisfaction with the size of the bread ration, the shortage in many kinds of provisions and high prices generally resulted today in a strike of laborers in all the shops in the town of Vestervik, which has a population of some 8,000. The laborers quit work at noon and formed into a procession and visited the various municipal authorities, who promised to secure for the workers supplementary bread cards as a reduction in the price of milk and food for earners of small incomes.

FOOD EXPORTS TO NEUTRAL NATIONS NOT TO BE BARRED

Except Where Assistance to Germany is Likely to Result.

Washington, April 19.—In any policy that may be adopted to regulate the export of food supplies during the war, the American government has no intention of interfering with shipments of supplies to European or other neutral nations, except where assistance to Germany is likely to result. Kilbane Outposts Brock. Cleveland, April 19.—Johnny Kilbane, champion featherweight, out pointed Matt Brock, of Cleveland, by a wide margin tonight in their ten-round decision bout.